

## King County Mobility Coalition

### MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4060

#### In attendance

*Members/Alternates:* Gaby Bell, Jim Blanchard, Nathan Buck, Dorene Cornwell, Steve Daschle, Jackie Engler-Morris, Sylvia Furstenberg, David Gestaut, Ref Lindmark, Michael Miller, Angela Miyamoto, Scott Ninnenman, Alex O'Reilly (Co-Chair) Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Bob Sahm (Co-Chair), George Smith, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart.

*Guests:* Alina Aaron, Micah Babinski, Don Chartock, Virginia Dize, Elmer Elegado, Julie Povick, Lynn Winchell-Mendy.

*Staff:* Michelle Zeidman.

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

- Alex O'Reilly welcomed the group and our guests from the National Center for Senior Transportation. Everyone introduced themselves and shared budget/funding updates.

#### *New Introductions:*

- Don Chartock is the Rural & Coordinated Transportation Administrator for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- Virginia Dize and Lynn Winchell-Mendy are with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), and are administering the National Center for Senior Transportation's (NCST) "Breaking New Ground" small grant program.
- Elmer Elegado is the manager for the Social Work Clinics at Harborview Medical Center.

#### *Announcements:*

- Sylvia Furstenberg shared that tonight the Board of the Arc of King County will be approving their first budget ever passed in the red.
- Cindy Zwart shared that they are expecting cuts to the Senior Citizens Services Act, which may impact Senior Services programs. She also noted that they received \$20,000 from the Beverly Foundation as recognition for their "Star for Excellence" Award.
- George Smith commented that City of Shoreline's funding is stable.
- Gaby Bell shared concerns about patient access to Harborview Medical Center because of changes to Medicaid transportation funding.
- Scott Ninnenman shared his concerns about budget cuts to rural areas.
- Steve Daschle is anxiously awaiting the legislative budget and city mid-term cuts.
- Nathan Buck noted that his Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding is growing for transporting people to job training. He also shared that Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TNAF) grants have been reduced; a household of 6+ people receiving \$900 a month will now be receiving just \$700 a month (approximately).
- Ref Lindmark shared that, with regard to the county's JARC program, demand for job trainees is limited. He also commented that Metro's revenue shortfall (due to decreasing sales tax revenue) may result in 600,000 service hours cut. The criteria for cuts include social equity, productivity and geographical equity.

- Dinah Wilson noted that City of Kent's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is down 16 percent and their general fund dollars were cut.
- Michael Miller shared that Sound Transit fares are increasing June 1, 2011 – except for seniors and youth whose fares will be decreasing by 75 cents. Michael Miller also noted that they are expecting service cuts to Issaquah, the Highlands and rural areas.
- David Gestaut shared that the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) is waiting to hear about federal funding and that they have Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to expend now.
- Ruben Rivera-Jackman noted that the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) has a \$2 million rental revenue shortfall due to cuts in General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) funding; as a result, KCHA has decided to keep these people in housing rent-free. Ruben also shared that the Section 8 waiting list opens on Monday with approximately 100 vouchers to be distributed via lottery. Ruben commented that KCHA still has ADA units available and is looking for applicants who need ADA-accessible housing.
- Jackie Engler-Morris noted that the funding source for the Deaf-Blind Service Center (DBSC) has changed.
- Bob Sahm shared that Metro Accessible Services is anticipating a ten percent increase in ridership for its ADA, Adult Day Health (ADH) and King County Community Transportation (KCCT) programs over the current increases in ridership. This is a sign of the changes in the economy. Bob also noted that ridership on Access increased 25 percent last year as a result of changes in ADH.

#### Consent Calendar

- *Approve February 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes:*
  - ❑ Decision: the Coalition approved the meeting minutes as written.

#### Mobility Manager Update

- Michelle Zeidman briefed the Coalition on three new projects: (1) Accessible Travel brochures/maps; (2) project to capture riders' stories; (3) Immigrant & Refugee Elders Transportation Project. *(See below for more details)*
- Micah Babinski shared our Coalition's new Accessible Travel brochures/maps for North, Southwest and South Central King County. Gaby Bell noted that the East King County and Seattle brochures will be ready this spring.
- Micah Babinski noted that a memo summarizing the findings from the Transportation Opportunities Assessment was emailed to members prior to this meeting. He encouraged members to contact him with questions or feedback.

#### Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) Update

- Alex O'Reilly shared that EERC hosted a successful transportation forum in Issaquah in April, with over 40 attendees. Ref Lindmark noted that this forum is an example of the power of our coalition:  
*Hero House serves adults recovering from mental health issues. They have a van, which they'd like to use to transport their clubhouse members to job training and work. However, they have no funds to operate the van. At our Issaquah Transportation Forum, they learned about existing transportation options and connected with Ref Lindmark who manages King County Metro's Jobs Access Program. Now Ref and Hero House are*

*working together to find funding to operate their van, which will make it easier for clubhouse members to get to job training and work – and increase their connections within the larger community.*

- Alex O'Reilly noted that EERC includes rural East King County, and they are working to expand partnerships in those areas. EERC is briefing transportation commissions in Kirkland, Issaquah, Bellevue and Redmond.
- EERC is about to launch a website with accessibility features so that people can learn about community transportation options available in East King County.
- Alina Aaron shared that EERC will be hosting an action planning forum this summer.

#### North King County Mobility Coalition (NKCMC) Update

- George Smith briefed the Coalition on NKCMC's recent activities, including (1) a needs assessment survey sent to 10,000 North King County residents to learn about transportation needs from a consumer perspective; and (2) a survey of transportation providers to learn about their capacity. These assessments will help the NKCMC develop strategies for action.

#### State Legislative Recap

- Don Chartock briefed the Coalition on the state legislative session, noting that the Governor signed the transportation budget on May 16. This included 100% funding for grants, no funding for the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT), and a one-third cut in staff for the Public Transportation division.

#### State Grant Update

- Don Chartock shared that all grant applications to WSDOT under the coordinated grant program have been reviewed, and he will be presenting funding recommendations to the Director this afternoon. Most funds will go to sustain current operations, with a 5-10 percent increase in funding over last time. Grantees should receive award letters later this week. The list of grant awards will be posted online in a few weeks.

#### Federal Transportation Funding

- Don Chartock noted that federal earmarks have been cut, which is how many transit get their vehicles (under Section 5309). He noted that we will change the way we do things without bus replacement earmarks. He also commented that federal formula funds (JARC, New Freedom, 5311, 5307, 5310) seem safe.
- Bob Sahm suggested that the Coalition to draft a letter to our federal congressional delegation asking them to continue support for federal formula funds. This could include stories about the outcomes from these funds, such as the Hyde Shuttle and Volunteer Transportation programs, KCMC's accomplishments, and the storybook project.
  - ❑ Action Item: We will have a draft of this letter before the August meeting.

#### Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Subcommittee Update

- Cindy Zwart briefed the Coalition on the Subcommittee's work, including the grant we received from the National Center for Senior Transportation. The goal of this \$20,000

grant is to increase the availability of culturally and ethnically appropriate transportation service information in King County. This project is based in the action plan we created in June 2010 during the Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative two-day workshop.

- Virginia Dize shared information about the National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST), which was authorized in the federal surface transportation bill in 2005, and is a partnership between Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). NCST is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The goal of NCST is to increase transportation options for elders across the United States to help them live independently in their communities.
- In 2008, NCST had its first round of senior demonstration grants. They awarded 7 grants out of 322 applications, for a total of \$522,000.
- Now NCST is focusing on diversity and elder mobility. They realized they don't know much about the mobility needs of diverse populations, and little literature exists on this topic. So they launched the "Breaking New Ground" grant program, which is based on the recommendations of the National Coalition on Mobility Needs of Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Elders. This program is funded with less than \$100,000, with the largest grant at \$20,000. They received 135 applications, and awarded four grants.
- Lynn Winchell-Mendy shared that the grants awarded are planning grants to develop an action. The next step will be to implement this plan. Lynn also noted that NCST is a technical assistance agency and, therefore, they seek to learn from these projects.
- Cindy Zwart explained that the focus of our project is on public transportation, including bus, Access, ORCA, and possible Medicaid transport. Senior Services of King County hopes to learn what works best in each immigrant/refugee community, understanding that there may be differences between them. This project focuses on newly arrived immigrant and refugee elders from Bhutan, Burma, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Russia, Ukraine, and Somalia.
- The project's components include:
  1. Community conversations/focus groups with elders to access their transportation knowledge, identify cultural/linguistic barriers, and solicit recommendations.
  2. Provider and client surveys translated into six languages, plus English.
  3. Summary of community findings
  4. Transportation Summit on 7/27 which will be an opportunity for dialogue, information-sharing and action planning. The goal of this summit is to create an action plan for developing outreach/marketing materials – including plans to spend the approximately \$13,000 in grant funds dedicated to this purpose.
  5. Ethnic Senior Advisory Council for community elders and staff from cultural agencies to inform and advocate on transportation and other issues in the county.

### Next Steps

- Bob Sahm shared that Ruth Tolmasoff is retiring from Mt Si Senior Center this summer. She was part of the original Key Partners groups that formed 12 years ago to coordinate transportation and human services in King County. We will be honoring her at the August meeting.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>